

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A self energizing clutch includes a shaft (26), a clutch disc (14) on the shaft, engaging elements (30, 32) for disengaging and engaging the disc from and with structure adjacent the disc, and an actuator (34) for moving the engaging elements between its disengaged and engaged positions. The engaging elements include a wedge member (30) one face of which rests on a first face of the disc with its wedging angle diminishing in the direction of rotation of the disc, and a ramp formation which is fixed to the structure and on which a second face of the wedge member, is movable in the direction of rotation of the disc to its engaged position with the engaging force applied by the wedge to the disc, during rotation of the disc, being substantially greater than the locking force created by the actuator with the disc stationary relatively to the structure.